

Brief report on the discussion held by the Working Group 2 (Economics of Green Care) of the  
COST Action 866, at the first meeting in Bruxelles.

The participants at the WG2 at the first meeting of the Management Committee of the COST Action 866 “Green Care in Agriculture”, held in Bruxelles the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2006, were;

- Joost Dessen (Belgium)
- Henrik Saxe (Denmark)
- Saverio Senni (Italy)
- Katja Vadnal (Slovenia)

The group nominated Prof. Saverio Senni Group leader while Dr. Henrik Saxe was nominated Depute.

At the beginning of the meeting the milestones envisaged by the Memorandum of Understanding of the Action for Work Group 2 “Economics of Green Care” have been read and discussed.

With reference to milestone 1 it has been underlined that the economic implications of green care projects and activities are relevant both to the health and social sector and to the agricultural sector. It follows that methodologies to analyze and estimate the economic impact of Green Care services may be discussed with scientist and expert both in the Health Economics and in the Agricultural Economics fields. Other disciplines that may be of interest for the group activities are Rural Sociology and Rural Economics.

A short preliminary discussion has been made on the domain of the activities of WG2, if they should be limited to the farm setting or if they should consider also the health effects of green care programs run inside hospitals, elders’ homes or other health institutions. The group believe that being the COST Action more focused on agriculture the economic aspects of green care should primarily be analysed with reference to a farm context.

In view of the next open workshop, to be held in December, the Group intend to focus on economic approaches that are, or could be used, to evaluate the multifunctional dimension of farming activities. The supply of health and social services can be seen, as stated in the MoU of the COST Action, within the multifunctional framework that increasingly concerns agricultural activities.

The Group intend to invite to speak to the December workshop scientists who have studied the economic implications of multifunctional agriculture, although not strictly related with the provision of green care services.

A short presentation of Green care agriculture will be prepared by the Group Leader, and send to these scientists together with some basic question they will be ask to answer at the meeting.

The identification of the scientists or researchers to involve will be done by the middle of September, also with the suggestion of other member of the Management Committee that have not participated to the WG 2 meeting.